

Special Populations Evac and Shelter in place Exercise After Action Report (AAR) /Improvement Plan (IP)

May 2023

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EXERCISE OVERVIEW

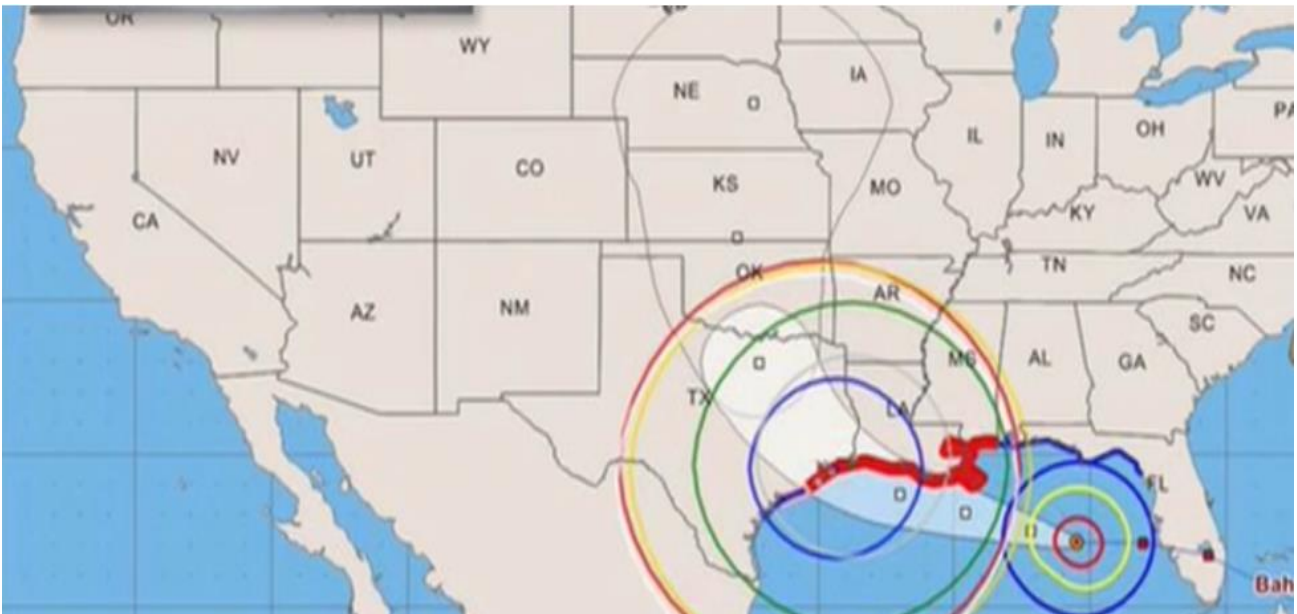
Exercise Name	Special Populations Evacuation and Shelter in Place (SETRAC Region)		
Exercise Dates	4/20//2023 & 5/4/2023		
Scope	This is an exercise planned to occur prior to Hurricane Season. Special Populations Stakeholders (Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, dialysis centers, home health/hospice, etc.) Healthcare agencies' inclement weather and hurricane plans will be tested, as well as procedures for evacuation, shelter in place and recovery systems. Exercise play is limited to registered participants.		
Purpose	The purpose of this exercise was to provide participants with an opportunity to evaluate current emergency plans, and capabilities related to a severe weather outbreak. The exercise focused on coordination and continuity of operations.		
HPP Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination • Capability 3: Continuity of Healthcare Service Delivery 		
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the ability of staff to effectively initiate and coordinate response in planning for a hurricane threat and post landfall. • Determine the ability of staff to ensure continuity care of patients or an influx of patients and/or extended staffing shortages as a result of a hurricane. 		
Threat or Hazard	Hurricane		
Scenario	A strong category 5 Hurricane to make landfall in Galveston Bay Texas. Wind speed at land fall up to 163 mph with gusts reaching 190 mph. After making landfall the center of circulation to track over Channelview, Sheldon (west of Crosby), Atascocita, Porter then turned NNE following highway 59, with the storm still at a cat-3 over Lufkin and Nacogdoches, before turning more NE toward Shreveport, LA. Extensive property and infrastructure damage possible along the track and east of the storm.		
Sponsor	Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Regional Healthcare Preparedness Coalition (RHPC)		
Participating Organizations	Multiple Public Agencies Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, dialysis centers, home health/hospice, and Private Partners. A complete list is included in Appendix B.		
Point of Contact	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">John Wingate Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator 1111 North Loop West Suite #160 Houston, TX. 77439 281-822-4439</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Fidel J. Calvillo Emergency Management Operations Coordinator Special Populations 1111 North Loop West Suite #160 Houston, TX. 77439 281-822-4449</td> </tr> </table>	John Wingate Regional Training and Exercise Coordinator 1111 North Loop West Suite #160 Houston, TX. 77439 281-822-4439	Fidel J. Calvillo Emergency Management Operations Coordinator Special Populations 1111 North Loop West Suite #160 Houston, TX. 77439 281-822-4449
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SCENARIO OVERVIEW

Scenario

Region-wide Hurricane.

The National Hurricane Center is monitoring a Hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. A strong category 5 Hurricane to make landfall in Galveston Bay Texas. Wind speed at land fall up to 163 mph with gusts reaching 190 mph. After making landfall the center of circulation to track over Channelview, Sheldon (west of Crosby), Atascocita, Porter then turned NNE following highway 59, with the storm still at a cat-3 over Lufkin and Nacogdoches, before turning more NE toward Shreveport, LA. Extensive property and infrastructure damage possible along the track and east of the storm. SETRAC partnered with the National Weather Service from Houston/Galveston Texas develop a realistic scenario.



ANALYSIS OF CORE CAPABILITIES

Aligning exercise objectives and core capabilities provides a consistent taxonomy for evaluation that transcends individual exercises to support preparedness reporting and trend analysis. Table 1 includes the exercise objectives, aligned core capabilities, and performance ratings for each core capability as observed during the exercise and determined by the evaluation team.

Objective	HPP Capability	Performed without Challenges (P)	Performed with Some Challenges (S)	Performed with Major Challenges (M)	Unable to be Performed (U)
Evaluate the ability of staff to effectively initiate and coordinate response in evacuation and shelter in place plans for a hurricane threat and post landfall.	Health Care and Medical Response Coordination		X		
Determine the ability of staff to ensure continuity care of patients or an influx of patients and/or extended staffing shortages as a result of a hurricane.	Continuity of Healthcare Service Delivery		X		

Table 1. Summary of Core Capability Performance

Ratings Definitions:

Performed without Challenges (P): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.

Performed with Some Challenges (S): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s) and did not negatively impact the performance of other activities. Performance of this activity did not contribute to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers, and it was conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws. However, opportunities to enhance effectiveness and/or efficiency were identified.

Performed with Major Challenges (M): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were completed in a manner that achieved the objective(s), but some or all of the following were observed: demonstrated performance had a negative impact on the performance of other activities; contributed to additional health and/or safety risks for the public or for emergency workers; and/or was not conducted in accordance with applicable plans, policies, procedures, regulations, and laws.

Unable to be Performed (U): The targets and critical tasks associated with the core capability were not performed in a manner that achieved the objective(s).

The following sections provide an overview of the performance related to each exercise objective and associated core capability, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Evaluate the ability of staff to effectively initiate and coordinate response in evacuation and shelter in place plans for a hurricane threat and post landfall.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

HPP Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

Strengths

The *partial* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1: Facility/agency staff were aware of emergency procedures, priority status, methodology to determine supplies, equipment, and medications.

Strength 2: Emergency response plans were in place and up to date to address disaster events.

Areas for Improvement:

The following areas require improvement to achieve the *full* capability level:

Area for Improvement 1: Access to transportation, company transportation vehicle availability.

Analysis: Due to the number of activities taking place and personnel affected, transportation was delayed or not available due to the lack of resources. The pre-identified vehicles were either in use conducting different operations or not available when called upon through a MOA provider.

Area for Improvement 2: Coordination with local dialysis centers for availability and locations to send patients.

Analysis: Multiple agencies were unable to identify open Dialysis Centers for their patients. When contacting the centers it was identified that many were not in operation and back-up locations need to be identified early on and not at the last minute.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Determine the ability of staff to ensure continuity care of patients or an influx of patients and/or extended staffing shortages as a result of a hurricane.

The strengths and areas for improvement for each core capability aligned to this objective are described in this section.

HPP Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery

Strengths

The *partial* capability level can be attributed to the following strengths:

Strength 1: Identification of Shelter-In-Place or Evacuation procedures were discussed early on and involved the activation of their plans for possible activation.

Strength 2: Communications with residents, patients, and family members was conducted regularly.

Areas for Improvement:

The following areas require improvement to achieve the *full* capability level:

Area for Improvement 1: Early Notification: Advance notification of evacuation orders for healthcare facilities and agencies.

Analysis: Socialization of current policies and procedures if any, for the advanced notification of evacuation for health care facilities and agencies from individual counties is needed.

Area for Improvement 2: Additional redundant communications.

Analysis: Facilities and Agencies would not be able to communicate with staff, patients, emergency management agencies, and corporate should loss of communications occur. No back up communications equipment.

Appendix A: REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This IP has been developed specifically for SETRAC as a result of Evacuation and Shelter in Place Exercise on May 4, 2023

Objective	HPP Capability	Issue/Area for Improvement	Corrective Action	Capability Element	Primary Responsible Organization	Start Date	Completion Date
Objective 1: Evaluate the ability of staff to effectively initiate and coordinate response in evacuation and shelter in place plans for a hurricane threat and post landfall	HPP Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination	Access to transportation, company transportation vehicle availability.	Additional MOUs with secondary and tertiary transportation vendors	2	Special Populations Stakeholders	June 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2023
		Coordination with local dialysis centers	EMResource Dialysis page training; Include dialysis clinic contact on EM Plans	2	SETRAC Special Populations Stakeholders	June 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2023
Objective 2: Determine the ability of staff to ensure continuity care of patients or an influx of patients and/or extended staffing shortages as a result of a hurricane.	HPP Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery	Early Notification	Work with local jurisdictions to socialize plans, policies, and procedures for the early notification of evacuations.	3	SETRAC Coordinators	May 25, 2021	July 31, 2021
		Redundancy of Communications	Amateur Radio Training; Coordinate and host Amateur Radio Technician level training for coalition members; purchasing communication equipment.	3	SETRAC Training & Exercise Special Populations Stakeholders	May 20, 2023	May 1, 2024

Appendix B: EXERCISE PARTICIPANTS

Agency Name
SETRAC
1st Texas Home Health
A Pineywoods Home Health
Abba Gentle Healthcare LLC
AccentCare
ACP HEALTH CARE RESOURCES,INC
Afton Oaks
Angels Over Us,LLC
Arbor Hills Rehabilitation and Healthcare
Avondale house
BEACON HOME HEALYH AGENCY LLC
Blue Stream Hospice and Palliative Care
Brighton Senior Living of Cypress
Burke DD Provider Services
Capstone Healthcare Estates at Veterans Memorial
Caring People, Ltd Co
Castle Pines
Chandra Wiltz Garrett
CITIZEN CARE HOME HEALTH, INC
Clarewood house assisted living
Clarewood house extended care center SNF
Coastal Health & Wellness
Communication Essentials
Cura Healthcare
Cypress Creek rehabilitation and Healthcare Center
Deerbrook Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
Devotion Hospice
Diboll Nursing & Rehabilitation
Enhabit Home Health
Enhabit Home Health Lufkin
Extracare Home Health Services
Fallcreek Rehabilitation and Healthcare
FKC Hillcroft Dialysis Center
FKC Missouri City Dialysis
FKC Pamela Heights

FKC Southwest Houston
FMC Galveston
FMC Meyerland
Focused Care at Cedar Bayou
Focused Care at Humble
Focused Care at Orange
Focused Care Corporate
Fondren Fresenius medical care
Fort Bend Fresenius Dialysis
Fresenius Kidney Care Beaumont Clinic 100712
Fresenius Alvin Dialysis
Fresenius Gessner
Fresenius Kidney Care Fondren
Fresenius Kidney Care Gessner #100754
Fresenius Medical Care
Good Shepherd Home Health (GS Home Health Management LLC)
GS Home Health Management
Gulf Coast Community Health Services Inc
Healing Through Caring Homecare
Health Care Temporaries Inc
Healthy Connections Homecare Services
Heart to Heart Hospice
Heritage Park of Katy
Holiness Home Healthcare
Interim HealthCare Houston Southeast
Intrepid USA Home Health Services
IntrepidUSA HOME HEALTH
Johnson and Johnson LLC- A Compassionate Care Home Health
Kingwood Endoscopy
Knewman Holdings LLC dba Pecan Grove
La Vita Bella
Liberty Health Care Center
Lufkin State Supported Living Center
Maxim Healthcare Services
MRC Creekside
Omega House Avenue 360
OMK healthcare services
Option Care Women's Health
Parkside Surgery Center

Patients Emergency Room and Hospital
Peach Creek Assisted Living
Regent Care Center
Regent care center of kingwood
Regent Care Center the Woodlands
Rollingbrook
Sabine Neches Home Health
Seabreeze Healthcare
Seabreeze Nursing & Rehab
Silverado Hospice North Houston
Silverado Hospice South Houston
South West Texas Home Health
Southern Home Health
Spindletop Center
SSA Home Health
Stonewood Hospice
Summit Nursing n rehabilitation
Suncrest Hospice LLC
Superior Integrated Home Health Care, Inc
The Forum at Memorial Woods
The Heights of Tomball/Touchstone Communities
The Shoal
Theracare Home Health North Houston
Timberidge Nursing and Rehab
TTI Home Healthcare
Vibra Life of Katy
VITAS Hospice
West Wynde Health Service
Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center